

The NSA Hack of Syrian Lawful Intercept

2-3 minutes

The NSA Hack of Syrian Lawful Intercept (LI)

In (+/-) 2007-2008 the NSA briefed some DIA personnel on the domestic situation in Syria.

This information came from the NSA hack of Syrian Lawful Intercept facilities. The Syrian government had a large number of criminals, including political dissidents, under electronic surveillance (ELSUR) since, under Syrian law, these dissidents were breaking Syrian law. These taplists also included murders, drug traffickers and other criminals.

This hack targeted the Syrian LI facilities which the briefing did not detail.

These 'taplists' (NSA term) that were obtained by NSA had the selectors but not the names associated with those selectors.

NSA placed these selectors under their own surveillance to further develop the taplist.

Now, Syrian dissidents were surveillance by two State Actors: Syria and the USA.

NSA coverage of these dissidents provided foundational intelligence to find Syrian dissidents abroad and contact them. These taplists provided important insights and structure to the Syrian dissident networks domestically and internationally. The USA does this all the time.

NSA, DIA, CIA and FBI, with international partners, began to find Syrian dissidents abroad and use these dissidents as a way into Syrian resistance network to further shape and influence the Syrian resistance into the Syrian civil war. This network became the foundation of USA/allied support to insurgency in Syria.

These Syrian dissidents went from resisting Assad to being proxies for USA led regime change for USA's profit.

This took place in 2007-2008, so, at this time, Syria was being prepared for conflict and this NSA hack was part of SIGINT Preparation of the Environment to develop the dissident network to further regime change in Syria.

The tone of the briefing suggested that taplists were highly sought after, very fragile accesses and probably covered under an ECI, rather than a broad SIGINT program.

While the Assad regime has to go, the USA instigation and support of insurgency did nothing except exacerbate internal security and inflicted a great deal of human suffering and death without any benefit.